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# **Honoring Our Veterans**

Veterans' Day is dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of America's 24.4 million Americans live in freedom living veterans. because of our veterans' courage, dedication to duty and love of country.

California is home to over 2 million veterans who have served this state and this nation proudly, and continue to serve the state in their role as citizens.

Currently, almost 8,000 California Guard and Reserve members are serving their country on active duty.

As the number of California veterans grows with the return of our service men and women from Iraq and other locations, California honors the

service of all these individuals by continuing a tradition of granting benefits to those who have served our nation in time of war.

The California Department of Veterans Affairs provides services to our veterans and their dependents, and to eligible members of the California National Guard. Some of those benefits include:

- Providing home and farm loans to veterans;
- College tuition fee waivers for veterans' dependents;
- Property tax exemptions;
- State Parks and recreation passes;
- Operating veterans' homes in Yountville, Barstow and Chula Vista with new homes in West Los Angeles, Lancaster and Saticoy to come online in 2009 followed by two more veterans homes to be built in Fresno and Redding;

Small businesses, including veterans, disabled veterans, and disabled veteran business enterprises are instrumental to the good health of the state's economy and a principal source of new jobs in California. Through Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises, the State of California annually contracts billions of dollars for goods and services ensuring California's economy remains strong.

# Significant Veterans Bills of 2005

SB 1082 - Morrow - Ducheny Child support: military reservists

#### **News of the Week**

Special Election Reaction

Knight, Lackey Win Palmdale City Council

The Fight Continues in the Effort to Overturn Judge's Decision and Stop Gay Marriage

Community Renewal Summit

Laser Device May Protect Jets From Attacks

Press-Enterprise Editorial: Casino Constraint

Schwarzenegger Takes Blame for Election Failure

Prediction that GOP Base Will Be Fired Up

Changes child support enforcement provisions for support obligors who are on active military duty or federalized National Guard out-of-state. Protects deployed soldiers from having their visitation rights taken away in abstentia. ((Chaptered by Secretary of State Chapter 154, Statutes of 2005))

## **SJR 9 – Morrow** *Retired military personnel: Medicare*

This measure would request that the Congress and the President of the United States support and enact legislation that would provide Medicare payments to military treatment facilities for retired military personnel and their dependents who meet Medicare age standards. (Chaptered by Secretary of State Res. Chapter 89, Statutes of 2005)

## AB 208 – Gordon School Districts Priority for Attendance: Children of Military Personnel

Allows students of military personnel to be given priority in transfers from one school district to another, if the school district elected to accept transfer pupils by as resolution adopted by the governing board of the school district prior to April 1, 2005. (Chaptered by Secretary of State Chapter 142, Statutes of 2005)

**AB 1594** – Umberg Military service: California National Guard Surviving Spouses and Children Relief Act of 2004: death benefits.

Appropriates \$130,000 to the Military Department for the purposes of paying death benefits to the families of service members who have died or were killed after March 1, 2003 in the performance of their military duty. (Chaptered by Secretary of State Chapter 342, Statutes of 2005)

Please remember to honor the men and women that have sacrificed so much for our country.

# If you would like to contact Senator Runner, please click here: Email - Website

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